1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT			
2	EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK			
3	,	.		
4	In Re:))		
5	DOWLING COLLEGE, Debtor.)) 16-75545 (REG)		
6	ZAIKOWSKI,	,))		
7	Plaintiff,	,)		
8	v.	,)) 16-08178 (REG)		
9	DOWLING COLLEGE,))		
10	Defendant.))		
11)		
12	TRANSCRIPT OF (4) SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE; [74] ADJ ORDER SCHEDULING INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE;			
13	MOTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE PROCEDURES FOR THE TURNOVER OF THE DEBTOR'S FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN			
14	PORTFOLIO BY LAUREN CATHERINE DOWLING COLLEGE; [347] MOTION TO	KISS ON BEHALF OF		
15	PROCEDURES FOR THE TURNOVER OF PERKINS LOAN PORTFOLIO BY LAUREN O	THE DEBTOR'S FEDERAL		
16	OF DOWLING COL	LEGE		
17	BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. GROSSMAN UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE			
18	MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017; 1:38 P.M. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK			
19	APPEARANCES:			
20	FOR THE DEBTOR:			
21	SEAN C. SOUTHARD, ESQ. Klestadt Winters Jureller Southard & Stevens, LLP			
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23	[Appearances continue on next page.]			
24	Proceedings recorded by electronic so			
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    (Proceedings began at 1:42 p.m.)
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 2
              THE CLERK: Matter Number 50, Zaikowski v. Dowling
 3
    College, and matter Number 51 and 52, Dowling College.
              MS. ROUPINIAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Rene
 4
    Roupinian of Outten & Golden appearing on behalf of Lori
 5
    Zaikowski and the certified class.
 6
              MR. SOUTHARD: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
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 8
    Southard of Klestadt Winters Jureller Southard & Stevens on
   behalf of the defendant, Dowling College.
 9
10
              MR. WARMUTH: Glenn Warmuth, Stim & Warmuth for
11
    Kimberly Poppiti.
              MR. FRIEDMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ronald
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13
    Friedman from SilvermanAcampora, counsel for the committee.
              MR. YANG: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Stan Yang for
14
    the United States Trustee.
15
              MR. KNAPP: Good afternoon.
16
                                           James Knapp, Assistant
    US Attorney for the Department of Education. Good afternoon,
17
18
    Your Honor.
19
              MR. KLEINBERG: Howard Kleinberg, Meyer Suozzi, for
    the Dowling Trustees.
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21
              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
22
              MR. SOUTHARD: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Again for
    the record Sean Southard on behalf of Dowling College.
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24
              Your Honor, we have just two matters on today's
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    calendar. One is the pretrial, adjourned pretrial associated
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4 with the WARN Act litigation by plaintiff Zaikowski, and the 1 2 other matter is the adjourned hearing having to do with the debtor's Perkins loan portfolio. 3 Your Honor, I would propose to start with the WARN 4 5 Act pretrial --6 THE COURT: Why don't we start with the status? 7 We're all closed? 8 MR. SOUTHARD: I would be happy to start with the 9 status, Your Honor. Yes, we have closed. I'm pleased to 10 announce we closed successfully the Oakdale transaction. 11 closed last week. The proceeds are sitting in the debtor in 12 possession accounts with Signature Bank. And we are discussing 13 what amounts of proceeds to potentially pay down to the secured creditors associated with that Oakdale sale. 14 There have been 15 various discussions among the creditors, the creditor's committee, and ACA Financial Guarantee Corporation who 16 17 effectively holds the first lien on the Oakdale campus and now 18 the resulting proceeds from the sale. And in consultation with 19 the debtors, we have looked at the settlement construct that 20 the creditors reached and tried to come up with a model to 21 follow that settlement construct with various assumptions. one of those assumptions we actually have an actual number for 22 23 with the Oakdale sale having concluded and believe that with 24 reasonable reserves approximately \$22 million of the roughly 25 \$26 million could be paid down to ACA.

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THE COURT: Will that be paid with the Court's approval or without?

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MR. SOUTHARD: Well, Your Honor, I think we obviously wanted to discuss that with Your Honor today and there is a mechanism that exists under the dip note which would in effect be a mandatory prepayment by the debtor once it receives the proceeds of the collateral. That said, because of the magnitude of the dollars that we're talking about and the consequence to this case and its ultimate creditor recovery, we certainly wanted to discuss that with Your Honor this morning. And before we did that, we had discussions with the different creditor constituents about the reasonableness of doing that now. So I believe, and I don't want to speak for committee counsel, but I believe that the committee is in agreement and has been very much in the forefront of these discussions about an appropriate reserve and that roughly the numbers I articulated of a \$4 million reserve give or take is something that they're amenable to, but I'll be happy to let them speak to that.

THE COURT: Well, I mean people have whatever rights they have. But what I'm concerned about is one, there are a lot of -- you haven't resolved this WARN Act issue yet and those folks and whatever they may or may not be entitled to. And since no plan has been filed, I don't have any idea of what the costs will be associated with liquidating, resolving,

6 whatever any claims the estate may have and that it has 1 2 adequate resources to commence those claims and to bring them. I was a little -- I think this was probably put in a document 3 that I signed, so it's not up to me, but when I saw that the 4 deposit that had been forfeited by the first buyer was 5 distributed to the secured creditor I think the committee 6 7 agreed to --8 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: -- as part of their deal. I never 9 10 concluded that those funds should have gone there. And I said 11 at the time, you all agreed to that and so I didn't get 12 involved in that at that point. But I was never really 13 convinced, and it doesn't matter, that they had a secured right to those funds. 14 Now I know, because I've been through this once 15 before on the exact same issue in a case called Brown 16 17 Publishing, but again, that was part and parcel of what I 18 understand was the stipulation between the committee and the secured creditors that did create for the committee, for want 19 of a better term, carve outs. So that was a business deal and 20 21 it was okay. 22 But I do want to be careful. I mean there's another 23 large chunk of property in this case that will cost something 24 to get from here to there. There may be, I don't know, but 25 [inaudible], there may be adversaries that need to be filed and

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    funded, and I don't want a debtor that's insolvent.
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 2
              MR. SOUTHARD: Understood.
              THE COURT: Now again, if this belongs to the secured
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    creditor, it belongs to them.
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              MR. SOUTHARD: Understood, Your Honor. And we have
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 6
    thought about the same concerns that Your Honor is raising.
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    There is a DIP facility in place. The expectation is that the
 8
    funding will continue through the conclusion of an effective
    date on the plan because, among other reasons, we do have
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    another sale to run and conclude.
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              THE COURT: Well, what's the secured creditor's
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    position? They've been paid down, they will have been paid
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    down from this. They have been paid down from houses. How
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    much are they actually owed?
              MR. SOUTHARD: Well, recall, Your Honor that there
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    are two different sets of secured creditors, for lack of a
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    better phrase.
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              THE COURT:
                          The total was about 60, right?
              MR. SOUTHARD: Give or take, Your Honor, yes.
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    the largest of those two pieces is about 38 million as of the
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    petition date. And that is the ACA piece or the 2006 bonds.
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    Those would be the facility that would be paid down fairly
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    dramatically with these Oakdale proceeds but they would still
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    hold a significant secured claim that would require a pay down
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    from the Brookhaven sale.
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8 THE COURT: Yes, but there's 112 acres in Brookdale 1 2 which I have no idea what it's worth. It can be worth a lot. But the remaining secured debt is 50 percent. I'm not saying 3 to whom, but in total. And it is a non-cash flow entity. 4 5 MR. SOUTHARD: Correct. THE COURT: So the only monies that can support this 6 7 thing for the next year, because it'll take longer than I think 8 everybody thinks, is from whatever monies you have in the bank. MR. SOUTHARD: Correct, Your Honor. We would either 9 10 self-fund with proceeds of the Oakdale sale or those proceeds 11 could effectively pay down the outstanding debt and then additional borrowings occur. Those are the two options. And I 12 13 14 THE COURT: Borrow post petition against the other 15 property? 16 MR. SOUTHARD: Correct, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: As long as these distant creditors will 18 be subordinate to it. You're going to have to make them subordinate. I don't think the bank will put on raw land 19 junior. 20 It may. Who knows? I just need you to think about 21 And my main concern is a WARN Act question. MR. SOUTHARD: Yes, Your Honor. 22 23 THE COURT: There's a decision the Circuit just 24 issued, was it the Second Circuit on WARN Act that just issued 25 one?

9 MR. SOUTHARD: Yeah. 1 2 THE COURT: So people are watching WARN Act claims 3 now. MR. SOUTHARD: Your Honor, I can talk a little bit 4 about where we are with the WARN Act. 5 THE COURT: Please. 6 7 MR. SOUTHARD: It might be appropriate at this point. 8 The parties met for a full day of mediation with the assistance of Yan [Ph.] Juran [Ph.] who was appointed mediator by Your 9 10 Honor, and made progress that day. It was determined at the 11 close of the day that additional information would be required primarily on the plaintiff's side to better assess the 12 13 potential extent of damages and in addition, some additional 14 information about the defenses that the debtor was inserting. 15 And since that time, there have been a lot of exchanges of information primarily by the debtor to the plaintiff. And 16 17 we're at a point now where I think we're just about done with 18 that information exchange, the informal mediation based information exchange and then could re-commence settlement 19 20 discussions. My hope would be that we'll know in the next say 21 30 days whether we're going to have a settlement or not or whether we need to go into litigation in a more meaningful way. 22 23 And certainly it's the hope of the debtor, and I think I speak 24 for the plaintiff when I say the hope for the plaintiff as 25 well, to try to find a constructive resolution. And again, we

10 have made progress but we're just not there yet. So what I 1 2 would ask of Your Honor, subject to hearing from plaintiff's counsel is that we potentially have a holding date of roughly 3 30 days where we would come back to Your Honor and report 4 either we were successful in settling the litigation and report 5 to Your Honor where we are or alternatively talk to Your Honor 6 7 about potentially moving forward with discovery in the true 8 sense. 9 THE COURT: And Mr. Juran is going to stay involved 10 because he originally was just --11 MR. SOUTHARD: Yeah, Your Honor. As a technical 12 matter, the mediation order, the time to conclude that 13 mediation was August 1st. So we are beyond that. Mr. Juran has 14 stayed involved insofar as communicating with the parties where are you, how are things? 15 16 THE COURT: I've known him for many, many years. 17 He's fine. I would have no reason, as long as you guys want to 18 continue, to continue the order. 19 MR. SOUTHARD: Yeah. I think at this point what I -and again, I don't want to speak for the plaintiff, but I think 20 21 we are able to trade positions effectively without the mediator. If we get to a logjam in the next interim period, I 22 23 would look to bring a mediator back in for assistance in clearing such a logjam. 24

THE COURT: Does any of this require the consent of a

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11 secured creditor to reach a settlement? 1 2 MR. SOUTHARD: Well, ultimately when we reach a settlement, hopefully we reach a settlement, certainly the 3 creditors will have a say in that. Ultimately, the dollars 4 that we're talking about in terms of priority claims anyway 5 will need to be paid to bring this case out of Chapter 11 6 7 through a plan. And so we have kept the creditors -- the 8 debtor has kept the creditors abreast of where we are in terms of status but they have yet to weigh in and get to the weeds on 9 10 the ultimate dollars that we're talking about. THE COURT: But aren't the dollars you're trading 11 12 their money at this point? 13 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes, Your Honor. Effectively they But because the creditors don't understand the merits of 14 15 the actual litigation, I believe it is necessary for the debtor to reach a proposed resolution based on the merits and then 16 deal with the mechanics of the dollars and cents that must be 17 18 paid out to make a plan go effective. Again, they are not in 19 the dark in any respect but they have not been an active 20 participant in the mediation. 21 THE COURT: How do you know what your position could 22 be if it's not your money? 23 MR. SOUTHARD: Well, we know ultimately what we think 24 we're willing to pay in terms of merits. Basically, what we're

talking about is the strength of one major defense and we have

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    a view about the strength and the likelihood of success on
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          Plaintiff has a different view.
              THE COURT: But could the secured creditors or a
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    secured creditor just say no, my bonds don't permit me to take
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    less than what I could get to settle a claim that's not against
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   me?
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              MR. SOUTHARD: They've not given any indication to
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    date that such a position would be put forth, but recall the
    construct of the settlement, the inter-creditor settlement that
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    was reach provided that effectively unsecured creditors and the
    secured creditors would share 50-50 the cost of priority claims
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    necessary to exit Chapter 11. So --
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              THE COURT:
                          What does that mean?
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              MR. SOUTHARD:
                             Meaning it --
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              THE COURT:
                          They'd have to put up 50 percent?
              MR. SOUTHARD: If the priority claims pool turns out
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    to be $2 million, 1 million of that would effectively be paid
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    out of the secured creditors' otherwise take from the proceeds
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    and --
                          And then --
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              THE COURT:
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              MR. SOUTHARD: The other million would first come
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    from the unsecured creditor proceeds.
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              THE COURT: For which somebody has to put an
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    unsecured creditor pool together.
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              MR. SOUTHARD: Correct, Your Honor. Ultimately when
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   we talk about the timing for plan confirmation and proceeding
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    with a plan and ultimately the effective date of a plan, that's
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    one factor that we take into consideration is we think we need,
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   based on our model, to close the Brookhaven sale transaction
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 5
   before the unsecureds will have enough money --
              THE COURT: Or for the unsecured creditors, or for
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 7
    the committee to pursue sources of revenue that are not
 8
    controlled by the secured creditors.
              MR. SOUTHARD: To the extent they exist. And then --
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10
              THE COURT:
                          To the extent they exist.
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              MR. SOUTHARD: Those would be really limited at this
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    point I think to litigation recoveries which I again can let
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    committee counsel speak to, but I know that they have set a
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   potential claim against D&O Insurance and targets of that sort.
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    But I don't know where they are with that. But I think my take
    on that, Your Honor, from a timing perspective would be
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17
    unlikely that they'll get to a recovery relative to that type
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    of asset, if any.
              THE COURT: But I suspect that the, I'm just
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20
    guessing, that in the WARN Act case, as an example, the
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    settlement will come in two tranches.
                                           There'll be money that
22
    can be paid which exists because it represents 50 percent and
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    it's sitting in the bank that's secured money and 50 percent on
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    [inaudible].
25
              MR. SOUTHARD: Could be, Your Honor. There are also
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14
    other priority claims that will need to be dealt with for
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   purposes of confirmation. So it's not limited --
              THE COURT:
                          Well that's the other thing. That's why
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    I want to see somebody start putting in a plan because if this
 4
    case can't go through a plan, it's got to convert it.
 5
   be --
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 7
              MR. SOUTHARD:
                             We think --
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              THE COURT: I'm not even sure I can convert a not for
   profit but --
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10
              MR. SOUTHARD: I don't think you can legally.
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              THE COURT:
                          I can't convert it. You can --
12
              MR. SOUTHARD:
                             Correct.
13
              THE COURT: -- convert it. I can't force you to
14
    convert it. Nobody can require the conversion but -- I mean
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    I'd rather not end up there.
              MR. SOUTHARD: I share your position on that, Your
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17
    Honor. So I think from a big picture perspective we envision
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    in the very near future moving forward with a proposed sale
    process for the Brookhaven campus. And in a best case scenario
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    would expect to see a closing around year end or the first
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21
    quarter of --
22
                          Really?
              THE COURT:
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              MR. SOUTHARD: -- of 2018. And again, an ideal
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    scenario, we would have a plan confirmation process that would
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    take place roughly in tandem with that closing on Brookhaven
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15 and swiftly exit Chapter 11 thereafter. That's again the sort 1 2 of best laid plans. THE COURT: So the town is cooperating out there? 3 MR. SOUTHARD: Your Honor, to date the town has been 4 There's certainly been a lot of discussion with 5 cooperating. 6 the town planning. At this point we do not expect to proceed 7 further with planning before a sale disposition. The belief is 8 that we know about as much as we'll be able to know relative to the future uses and that any buyer who will diligence the 9 10 opportunity at this point will be able to make their own 11 conclusions about that future use. 12 THE COURT: Okay. 13 MR. SOUTHARD: So we think based on again the 14 information we're getting from the different parties that have 15 been retained by the debtor, including the brokers, that it would be a good time to go to market and we hope to roll out 16 17 with a proposed sale process that will look a lot I think like 18 the Oakdale sale process with some minor changes to some of the details. 19 20 THE COURT: All right. It looks good. 21 MR. SOUTHARD: That's our big picture plan. So in terms of then the proposed potential pay down 22 23 of proceeds, would Your Honor like to see that on motion on 24 notice? 25 THE COURT: Yes.

MR. SOUTHARD: Okay. We wanted to discuss that with you today. So we will work on a motion for that in the near term and present that to Your Honor. We will serve certainly all the lienholders, the junior creditors, judgment holders and the like and put that on before you. And we'll look at whether we can -- how much of the current modeling we can share publically at this point to try to help Your Honor get a better perspective of the big picture.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SOUTHARD: So then turning back to the WARN Act, Your Honor, my proposal on behalf of the defendant, I'll be happy to let plaintiff speak, would be to ask for in essence a 30 day adjournment of that matter to come back before Your Honor on that.

MS. ROUPINIAN: Good afternoon again, Your Honor. Rene Roupinian on behalf of Lori Zaikowski and the certified class. I'm in concurrence. We've had an opportunity to speak before the conference today and I think a 30 day continuance makes sense. We had a very productive first day of mediation but we needed to really get our arms around the WARN damages because in this particular case we have so many different categories of employees. We have the full time and the part time and the adjuncts and the instructors and so forth and so on, and they had different agreements in terms of their compensation and benefits and so forth. So it's been a process

17 that I think has been very productive and they've been terrific 1 on the other side producing what they can. We recognize that 2 the focus needed to be on the sale of the property and bringing 3 money into the estate, so we've been patient. But we have been 4 moving forward and Yan Juran has been helpful in that process. 5 His efforts do not come at a discount so we think it does make 6 7 sense to do as much as we can between the parties and bring in 8 Mr. Juran when we need him if we hit any sort of roadblocks when we get to the point where we can actually start talking 9 10 about numbers and allocating risk based on the defenses and so 11 forth. 12 So we would propose as well that the Court set a 13 further status conference 30 days out. 14 THE COURT: When's the next [inaudible]? When are 15 you going to put this on -- you're going to have the motion returnable sooner than you want this I assume. 16 MR. SOUTHARD: I'm sure that the creditors would like 17 18 that, Your Honor. We --They're not going anyplace. 19 THE COURT: MR. SOUTHARD: We probably -- we could probably have 20 21 our motion on file in a week and really subject to Your Honor's 22 calendar. I would think we would need 14 days notice at a 23 minimum for that following the local rules --24 It's not going to be the beginning of THE COURT: October, so it has to be towards October 23rd, around there? 25

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    That would be the date.
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              MR. SOUTHARD: October 23<sup>rd</sup>?
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                           23<sup>rd</sup>.
              THE COURT:
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              MR. SOUTHARD: I think we have a --
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              THE COURT: Yes, October 28th. No --
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              MR. SOUTHARD: We're going in that direction.
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 7
              THE COURT: You're going in the wrong direction.
                                                                   The
 8
    problem is that NCBJ is the beginning of October and so my
    exalted position and I have to go to that thing. And that
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    takes me to the 15th of October. Before that we have trials,
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11
    trial dates, so no, that's probably the best you're going to
    get. You're not going to do it in September. September is too
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13
    soon I quess.
              MR. SOUTHARD: What do we have in September?
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15
              MALE SPEAKER: I think the very --
              MALE SPEAKER: September 30 as a benchmark day if we
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17
          Any time before that.
    can.
18
              THE COURT: Why?
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              MALE SPEAKER: It will save us some money on the
    [inaudible] distribution [inaudible].
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21
              THE COURT: I'll accept that. I don't know what
22
    you're talking about but I'll accept that.
                                                  What?
23
              THE CLERK:
                           [Inaudible].
              THE COURT: 25^{\text{th}} or 27^{\text{th}}. Would that be enough time to
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    get anything out of the WARN Act question. You guys put the
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    motion up but --
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              MR. SOUTHARD: No, the motion will be no problem.
              THE COURT:
                           That I know you can do.
 3
              MR. SOUTHARD: The 27<sup>th</sup>, Your Honor.
 4
                          Okay. Mr. Kleinberg, the 27<sup>th</sup> work?
 5
              THE COURT:
 6
              MR. KLEINBERG: Excellent, Your Honor. Thank you so
 7
    much.
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              THE COURT:
                          We aim to please.
                          At 1:30?
 9
              THE CLERK:
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              THE COURT:
                          1:30. Okay. Good luck.
              MS. ROUPINIAN:
                               Thank you. And in terms of NCBJ,
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12
    I'll be speaking on the judgment panel, so hope to see you
13
    there.
                           That's why she can get what she wants.
14
              THE COURT:
15
    Friends of NCBJ are reporting to me these days.
              MS. ROUPINIAN:
16
                               Thank you.
17
              MR. SOUTHARD: Your Honor, I intend to register for
18
    the NCBJ immediately after this hearing.
19
              MALE SPEAKER:
                              I do too.
              THE COURT: We actually put -- the moderator put some
20
21
    fliers in.
22
              MR. SOUTHARD: It's right here.
23
              THE COURT: Are they there too? And there's a group
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    of lawyers in this courthouse I don't think can spell NCBJ
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    spotting them two of the initials. They're all going.
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because of me, because it's in Vegas. So to some people, they won't show up because it's in Las Vegas, and others want to go. And I just can't imagine the headline, one of our senators getting in touch with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges holding its convention in Las Vegas. I always wondered who decided that was a good idea. It's like the Mohican Sun thing that we do every couple of years. Go through the casino for it.

All right. So that's set. What else do we have on today?

MR. SOUTHARD: So the only other item we have on, Your Honor, is the debtor's adjourn motion having to do with this Perkins loan portfolio and the debtor's proposed turnover of that loan portfolio. This is docket number 347 that the debtor filed back on June 16th and Your Honor initially heard in July. And we discussed during that July hearing the question of whether there was and is a property of the estate interest in that loan portfolio that the debtor was proposing to assign. And since that point, Your Honor, the debtor and counsel to the US Department of Education, the US Attorney's Office have had a couple of different conversations trying to find a potential resolution that would recognize the potential for that property and the estate interest. And I believe as of the end of the week basically Education was at a point where they felt from their perspective under their rules and regulations they were

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    unable to effectively give consideration to the bankruptcy
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    estate for Dowling's potential interest in the loan portfolio.
    And so on Friday early evening a brief was filed explaining
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    their position which I will confess I have not had a full
 4
    opportunity to review myself because I was away. But I think
 5
    it's possible that other parties might have views to express --
 6
 7
              THE COURT:
                          Anybody read it?
 8
              MR. SOUTHARD: -- in response to that.
                          I mean I did. You read it?
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              THE COURT:
10
              MALE SPEAKER:
                             I read it.
11
              THE COURT:
                          This is like class. The quy in the back
12
    actually read the assignment.
13
              MR. SOUTHARD: So I generally understand because we
14
    did have a discussion about their position.
15
              THE COURT: You can spend an hour arguing if you'd
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           I'm going to leave, but you can spend an hour arguing.
17
    The answer is -- did you see that show with that old guy, I
18
    used to call him old guy, the new show, and the answer is, only
    because he got to talk. You're partially right and you're
19
    partially wrong. Certain of these dollars I would find are
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21
    property of the estate. The single most interesting line is
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    it's 76 percent give or take of these people aren't going to
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    pay these loans back anyway and their total interest is
24
    300,000. So if I take 20 percent of 300,000 or $60,000 give or
25
    take, that the estate doesn't want to spend litigating with
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22 you, the results here is probably I'm not going to give you an 1 order saying this is not property of the estate. I'm going to 2 go with door number two unless anybody objects that the debtor 3 will abandon its interest and leave for another day the 4 question of whether you're right or wrong with regards to 5 property of the estate. So if you can live with that, that's 6 7 the answer. I mean I can order it anyway. If you can't, then 8 I'm not going to give you anything and we're going to litigate 9 it. 10 MR. SOUTHARD: Your Honor --11 MR. KNAPP: This doesn't sound like the piece of cake from the previous case. 12 13 THE COURT: What? MR. KNAPP: It doesn't sound like the piece of cake 14 15 you had in the prior case. 16 MR. SOUTHARD: Your Honor, the one thought that we on 17 the debtor's side had after this development last week is that 18 perhaps, because there is a desire to assign the loan portfolio as a mechanic that perhaps we could do what Your Honor is 19 20 suggesting, leave open the question of the amount of the value 21 of the debtor's interest in that loan portfolio. 22 THE COURT: But I think the Government's position is 23 it doesn't matter because once you go off the program, whatever 24 you put in, even if it's yours now becomes theirs, is that 25 correct?

23 Yes. MR. KNAPP: 1 2 MR. SOUTHARD: That is their position, Your Honor, 3 yes. So whatever -- figuring out the number is 4 THE COURT: It's the legal concept. And I don't know if 5 you're right or wrong. I mean it's a technical fight. 6 7 think the papers were good and somebody would have to respond 8 but you're going to be responding over if you're right and their numbers are right, a rather small amount of money because 9 10 I think the original numbers you had 20 some odd million 11 dollars in this program but you're down to a million seven? Α million seven --12 13 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes. THE COURT: -- of which somebody calculated 330 some 14 15 odd thousand dollars is your interest. Their position is whatever you would get of that, and it doesn't matter because 16 17 somehow you have a contractual obligation that once you leave 18 the program whatever you put in, even if attributable to you, 19 goes to them. Now, I'm not sure they'd win that in a 20 bankruptcy court. They may. I'm not sure whether it's been 21 litigated yet. It's a question of whether you want to on a 22 practical basis you want to use the money to do it. 23 MR. SOUTHARD: Yeah, we don't think it has been 24 litigated, Your Honor, which is why we originally filed the 25 motion the way we did. And I think in part we're saying the

```
24
    same thing whether it's abandonment or assignment of the loan
1
 2
   portfolio.
              THE COURT:
                          But are you going to transfer the money
 3
    to them? Or you're going to hold the money?
 4
              MR. SOUTHARD: No, Your Honor. We would transfer the
 5
    loan portfolio, the loans themselves, for administration by the
 6
 7
    Government --
 8
              THE COURT: I'll do that.
              MR. SOUTHARD: -- and then hold the money subject to
 9
10
    a further order of Your Honor's when we've completed the
11
    accounting that will be necessary associated with that. And we
    would leave open the question of property of the estate.
12
13
              THE COURT: So they would get about a million four
14
    give or take?
15
              MR. SOUTHARD: They would actually get loans that
16
    have --
17
              THE COURT:
                          Or whatever that package is.
18
              MR. SOUTHARD: -- that have certain principal amounts
    outstanding and they would then take over as the administrator
19
20
    of those loans. The debtor would no longer --
21
              THE COURT:
                          And then remit to you your piece if the
22
    Court determined that?
23
              MR. SOUTHARD: No, Your Honor. I think they would --
24
    those loans would pass back into the program as their rules
25
    contemplate.
```

25 THE COURT: Right. 1 2 MR. SOUTHARD: We have, however, about \$400,000 give 3 or take in DIP accounts that is potentially tied to that loan program because the proceeds of the Perkins loan program . And 4 instead of transferring that money now, we would do so based on 5 a further order from Your Honor after the accounting is 6 7 completed and --8 THE COURT: So you're not abandoning. You're basically arguing that they have the right -- you'll transfer 9 10 to them the management of the portfolio. The debtor wishes to 11 maintain its interest to whatever extent in the cash and 12 litigate that issue with the Government. 13 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes. Or settle title. 14 THE COURT: 15 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes. And the extent to which there 16 were any hypothetical interests in the loan portfolio, we can 17 preserve that issue for a later date. 18 THE COURT: What do you say, sir? 19 I really don't have anything to add other MR. KNAPP: than in the papers, Your Honor. Education's position though is 20 21 it's an all or nothing proposition. If we're talking about, as 22 I think I understood Your Honor a moment ago, that Education 23 would administer the loans going forward but there would be 24 some carve out of the repayments --25 THE COURT: That's wrong. I misunderstood that.

```
26
    What they're saying is the bulk of these loans go to you.
1
 2
              MR. KNAPP: Well, all of the -- the portfolio of
    loans that has at least on paper a value of about $1.8 million
 3
    would be transferred back to Education.
 4
              MR. SOUTHARD: Would be assigned, right, under their
 5
 6
    rules.
 7
              THE COURT:
                          But there's cash in a bank.
 8
              MR.
                   KNAPP:
                           Yes.
 9
              THE COURT:
                          That cash they're not prepared to agree
10
    to transfer to you.
11
              MR. KNAPP:
                          I understand.
12
              THE COURT:
                          Your position is you own it.
13
              MR. KNAPP:
                          Correct.
14
              THE COURT:
                          And that would be the issue to litigate.
15
    Do you own it or does the estate own it?
                          Or as Your Honor articulated some weeks
16
              MR. KNAPP:
17
    ago, is there a percentage of ownership between the Department
18
    of Education --
                                  I mean again, what is there --
19
              THE COURT:
                          Right.
    all I care about is what is property of the estate.
20
                                                          It is in
21
    the debtor's possession now. Your argument is that when they
22
    terminated the participation in the program by filing the
    bankruptcy under your rules it doesn't matter whether they
23
24
    would own it or you would own it. It all goes back to the
25
                 That was the deal they made to participate in the
```

```
27
1
   process.
 2
                         And it predates the bankruptcy filing.
              MR. KNAPP:
              THE COURT:
 3
                          Yes.
              MR. KNAPP: When Dowling enrolled in, for lack of a
 4
   better word, the Perkins program 50 odd years ago, the
 5
    agreement of their seed money was that this money would be used
 6
 7
    only for the Perkins loan program.
 8
              THE COURT:
                          Right.
                          They didn't have rights to it before they
 9
              MR. KNAPP:
10
   got to bankruptcy other than for use --
11
              THE COURT:
                          You may be right.
12
                          -- in the Perkins loan program. And then
              MR. KNAPP:
13
    when they closed their doors in June I believe of '16 the
14
    bankruptcy case was filed in November of '16, they were
15
    obligated at that point to send everything related to the
    Perkins loan program back to the Department of Education.
16
17
              THE COURT:
                          The only issue is whether the intervening
18
    bankruptcy alters the rights of the parties as it does in
19
    countless ways. It may or may not. I don't know the answer to
20
           They haven't put in any papers. So I think I would
21
    agree today that you guys can enter an order saying that you
22
    can get the portfolio and we leave this to a second fight. You
23
    have put in papers already. They would respond. And we see if
24
    we can short circuit and get a hearing on it and finish it.
                                                                  Ι
25
    think it's better for you to get the portfolio today because I
```

```
28
    think it should be serviced.
1
 2
              MR. SOUTHARD: From the debtor --
              THE COURT:
                          So this is without prejudice to your
 3
    rights arguing it all belongs to you.
 4
              MR. SOUTHARD: From the debtor's perspective, I think
 5
    that makes sense, Your Honor.
 6
 7
              THE COURT:
                          I'll do that.
 8
              MR. SOUTHARD: We'll try to work on a form of order
    that is agreeable between the parties and we'll include the
9
    committee.
10
11
                          It has to be without prejudice to the
              THE COURT:
    Government's right to argue that just because it entered into,
12
13
    recognizes, whatever it is, that does not affect their right to
14
    arque it's all theirs, nor does it affect your right to arque
15
    that it's property of the estate and should be divided in a
    certain fashion.
16
17
              MR. SOUTHARD: Understood, Your Honor.
18
              THE COURT:
                          That would resolve at least that for
19
    today. And then you'll put in papers and we'll get a hearing
    date. So what's on today, I think we resolved this motion.
20
21
    No, I'll carry this motion. Just put in an interim order on
22
    this and we'll use this motion to resolve the rest of it.
23
              MR. SOUTHARD: Very well, Your Honor. And should we
    assume this is carried to September 27<sup>th</sup> as well?
24
25
              THE COURT:
                          Yes. I'm not sure we'll have anything
```

```
29
    that day because you guys got to put papers and they may want
1
2
    to respond. But we'll use that as a holding date.
 3
              MR. SOUTHARD: Thank you, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: All right?
 4
 5
              MR. SOUTHARD: That concludes everything we had on
    the calendar this afternoon.
6
              THE COURT: Well, I don't have anything. Anybody
 7
8
    else want to talk about anything? Golf match, Yankee game,
9
    anything? All right. Thanks, folks.
10
              MR. SOUTHARD: Thank you, Your Honor.
11
              THE COURT: Court's adjourned.
12
    (Proceedings concluded at 2:21 p.m.)
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
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23
24
25
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I certify that the foregoing is a court transcript from an electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter. Mary Greco Mary Greco Dated: September 5, 2017

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52 [1] **3:**3

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